

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Geography Division, ORR

Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No.: 61.1791

From: A/Chief, Geography Division

Date: 12 August 1959

1. Subject of Proposed Project: Northern Laos
2. Statement of Problem: The current actions of the Communist-dominated forces and the countermoves of the Government of Laos forces in northern and northeastern Laos and the contiguous area of North Vietnam are related to the various elements in the geography of this area. The purpose of this project is to describe this remote area and analyze those geographic elements that taken together provide a meaningful background for the current situation as it develops. This project will provide a summation of pertinent physical and cultural geographic data, emphasizing particularly terrain, climatic, transportation and ethnic elements.
3. Requester: Self-initiated.
4. Responsible Analyst and Branch: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired from:
 - a. Other Divisions of the G Area (include maps):
Probably three small maps to be prepared by D/GC.
 - b. D/GI Domestic Procurement: None
 - c. Other parts of CIA: Coordination with OCI and possibly ONE.
Aerial photography information from PIC.
 - d. Outside CIA: Road information from ESID, AMS.
6. Estimated Man Hours in D/GC: 100
7. Probable Completion Date: September 1959
8. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR GM
9. Recommendations Regarding Distribution of Finished Report:
Standard for GM. 25X1A9a
10. Comments: The proposed GM has been discussed with Mr. [REDACTED] ONE, who has expressed a definite interest in having such a publication prepared. The Chief of the Laos Desk, DD/P has also strongly expressed a interest in this project. [REDACTED] see note on [REDACTED]

Approved:

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Chief, Geography Division reverse side

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17 AUG 1959
Date

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Chief, Geographic Research

Note: The "expressed interest" cited in Comments is quite understated.

25X1A9a Although OCI was cool toward the use of this in their weekly, Hal [REDACTED] stated we would be "derelict in our duty" if we didn't get it out, and [REDACTED] volunteered the aid of his executive officer if we had trouble with reproduction..

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/s/ RTA